

March 14, 1984

LB 1034

this floor many times in the last few years saying that we were discussing creating a veterinary college but we, as of yet, had not been willing to fully fund and fully commit our resources to the diagnostic laboratories in this state and I mentioned on this floor and I will say it again that we've got veterinarians out there that are within 40 and 50 miles or closer, my own son is within 35 miles of a diagnostic lab and yet sends all of his samples to locations out of this state and I don't think that is a very good signal to be sending from the state to the livestock industry, to one of the largest industries in this state, one of the industries that is quite frankly, going down the tube, not very slowly at this point in time but pretty fast, that we have not been willing to commit our resources as much for that particular industry in this particular area as some other states have done. We've got a diagnostic lab that has never been fully staffed, never been fully funded and as a result is not able to respond to the needs of the livestock industry in this state. Now with the committee amendments we are saying once again, well we are going to reinstate some tests and one of those tests I understand is one that this body in its wisdom took out last year, but we are not going to put any more staff people there. Well the staff is largely the problem. Largely the problem is the fact there is not enough folks there to do the diagnostic work and I guess I have some real concerns as to whether or not this is really going to solve the problem if we are not going to be willing to commit the resources to hire the people that we need to hire to do the job that needs to be done. Now I understand we have got some economic problems as a state but I suggest to you that this is not frills that we are talking about but this is a bottom line as it relates to the industry that, I would hope at least, helps make this state great. I don't think we are being very wise in our priorities but I do think that it is better to have half a loaf I guess and it is all right to have some additional funds but I can assure you I am going to be discussing this a little more on Select File and would hope to get the bill back in more of a shape that it was originally so that we can help that industry and help those people that we really need to be helping.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rod Johnson.